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### UM lecture reveals connection between Buffalo Bill and 'Dracula'

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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April 22, 2003

**Contact:** O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West, (406) 243-7700; UM Department of History, (406) 243-2231.

### **UM LECTURE REVEALS CONNECTION BETWEEN BUFFALO BILL AND 'DRACULA'**

#### **MISSOULA—**

Though the topics of Buffalo Bill Cody, Bram Stoker of "Dracula" fame and interracial relationships may seem wildly divergent, they will all be tied together during a lecture at The University of Montana on Thursday, May 1.

Louis Warren, a professor at the University of California, Davis, will present "Buffalo Bill Meets Dracula: William Cody, Bram Stoker and the Frontiers of Racial Decay" at 7:30 p.m. in University Center Room 330.

The lecture is the first annual Hammond Lecture in Western/Environmental History. It will be sponsored by the UM history department's Hammond Endowment and the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West, UM's regional studies and public policy center. The event is free and open to the public.

The lecture will discuss Buffalo Bill and his Wild West Show, which was enormously popular in late 19th century England -- even giving command performances for Queen Victoria. Bram Stoker, the future author of "Dracula," met Buffalo Bill in England and was bowled over by the American's charisma. Aspects of Buffalo Bill's personality and Western experiences were even mirrored in the hero characters of "Dracula."

The lecture also will touch upon the interracial frontiers of that time period -- from the

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American West to Eastern Europe, where the Turkish frontier threatened the stability of the region close to Transylvania, Dracula's fictional home.

Warren is the UC-Davis W. Turrentine Jackson Professor of Western U.S. History. He specializes in the U.S. West and environmental history. His wide range of Western and environmental work is apparent in his book "The Hunter's Game: Poachers and Conservationists in 20th Century America," his edition of "American Environmental History" and articles such as "Cody's Last Stand: Masculine Anxiety, the Custer Myth and the Frontier of Domesticity in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show."

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